

KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Small Hall, St. Edith Hall, Kemsing, on Wednesday, 18th July 2018 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mrs. M. Cole (in the Chair)
Mr. A. Andrews, Mr. M. Bell, Mr. D. Bennett, Mr. P. Burfield, Mr. P. Dillon,
Mr. P. Eaton, Mr. R. Lang, Mrs. M. Robarts, Dr. P. Walker [arrived at 7.37 p.m.]
Mrs. R. Wedderburn-Day

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillor Mr. R. Gough [arrived at 7.39 p.m.]
17 Members of the Public
Mrs. Y. Tredoux (Clerk)

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. B. Buttifant and Mr. M. Hudson.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest received.

3. **DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

There were no reports received from the District Councillors.

County Councillor Mr. Gough's report was received later during the meeting.

4. **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC & PRESS**

Residents in attendance were all interested in Item 6(d).

5. **MINUTES**

Mrs. Cole proposed from the Chair:

"That the Parish Council approves the minutes of the meeting held on 20th June 2018, Ref KPC/06/2018".

CARRIED unanimously

6. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

(a) Interactive speed warning sign at Childsbridge Lane, Kemsing (Minute 6(a) KPC/06/2018)

It was hoped to receive an update from County Councillor Mr. Gough. *[This had subsequently been received – see Minute 6(d)].*

(b) Damaged stone wall at horse trough (Minute 6(d) KPC/06/2018)

The work had been completed.

(c) Milestone (way marker) at Pilgrims Way (Minute 6(e) KPC/06/2018)

It was hoped to receive an update from County Councillor Mr. Gough. *[This had subsequently been received – see Minute 6(d)].*

(d) Vandalism and anti-social behaviour at Nightingale Road Recreation Ground (Minute 7(b) KPC/06/2018)

Mrs. Cole read out a reply received from Kent Police in response to the Parish Council's letter;

(i) assurance that the Police were aware of all the issues and that appropriate action was being taken was given

(ii) residents and the Parish Council were urged to continue to report every incident.

7.37 p.m. Dr. Walker arrived.

Mrs. Cole was saddened by the alleged public perception suggesting the Parish Council was not concerned about the problems. Parish Councillors are also residents of Kemsing and were equally troubled by the acts of vandalism and anti-social behaviour which is detrimental to our village.

The Clerk had spent many hours as a result of the vandalism in arranging repairs to broken fencing, reporting to and communicating with the Police and other authorities. A meeting between the interested parties was to take place shortly.

Mr. Bell echoed Mrs. Cole's comments and reiterated that the Police were clearly aware of the problems and that everyone should keep passing information to the Police.

7.39 p.m. County Councillor Mr. Gough arrived at the meeting.

Mrs. Cole referred to the District Council's Inshape magazine where details of crime reporting mechanisms could be obtained.

7.40 p.m. Meeting was adjourned for public participation.

Residents expressed their concern about the incidents which had escalated from nuisance behaviour to criminal damage, intimidation, drug use and potential dealing and even theft. The group now comprise around twenty individuals, all or most of whom are carrying weapons. Two days ago two persons walking along the bridleway leading from Kemsing to Otford had been mugged by lads on mopeds. Local residents had taken it upon themselves, on a number of occasions, to chase after the perpetrators which led to evidence being passed to the Police. A male resident had managed to prevent a moped being set alight by chasing two of the culprits.

It would seem that the vandalism and anti-social behaviour is a wider issue and not limited to Kemsing only; similar reports have been received of incidents occurring in Seal and Sevenoaks. *The Clerk was asked to enquire from Seal Parish Council of the level of problems experienced by them.*

A suggestion to put up barriers at the entrances to the bridle way was made. Mr. Bennett pointed out that the public bridleway, which also allows access for horses, may not be legally blocked. *Mr. Gough would refer this suggestion to his KCC Public Right of Way colleagues.*

A resident asked if the Parish Council would consider producing a leaflet to update residents at Norman Close and Nightingale Road of the progress being made. Councillors concluded that any leaflets or information should be produced by the Police as part of their normal crime prevention strategy to alert residents when a crime had been committed in a specific area.

8.00 p.m. The residents left the meeting.

Mr. Gough would look into what degree a multi-agency awareness there has been about these issues.

Mr. Gough's report:

Milestone – Mr. Gough is chasing two departments at KCC to deal with this as a matter of urgency.

Sign – Apologising for the delay, Mr. Gough indicated that the relevant paperwork had now been signed off and that installation was expected in the Autumn.

Big Conversation consultation – Mr. Gough drew attention to the consultation which seeks to review public transport and bus services in Kent.

Public Rights of Way consultation – There is currently a consultation to review the PROW network in the County.

8.17 p.m. Mrs. Cole thanked Mr. Gough for attending and Mr. Gough left the meeting.

(e) Youth services (Minute 7(c) KPC/06/2018)

A response form the youth worker had been received and noted. This service formed part of a Kent County Council commissioned youth service for which the Parish Council would not be charged.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to ask the Police and Community Safety Unit representatives at the site meeting whether, in their opinion, the help from the youth worker would be beneficial in Kemsing, and if it is deemed to have a positive impact, the Clerk to approach the youth worker to deliver detached work in Kemsing.

7. **NEW MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION**

(a) Bus Services

Comments from a resident regarding the loss of the bus stop in West End and the newly introduced 'Hail and Ride' scheme introduced for the Eastern half of the village, were noted.

(b) Mental Health Day – Wednesday, 10th October 2018

The District Council's Chairman asked Parish and Town Councils to encourage local communities to come together by arranging, for example, a coffee morning. This was noted.

7.33 p.m. **CHANGE IN ORDER OF AGENDA ITEMS**

With the Members' agreement the Chairman moved Agenda Item 7(c) to be taken at the end of the meeting.

8. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(a) Planning Committee

Mr. Andrews proposed, seconded by Mrs. Cole:

"That the Parish Council notes the minutes of the meeting held on 18th June 2018, Ref No P/10/2018".

CARRIED unanimously

Mr. Andrews proposes, seconded by Mr. Bell:

"That the Parish Council notes the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd July 2018, Ref No P/11/2018".

CARRIED unanimously

(b) Downland Management Committee

Mr. Bennett proposed, seconded by Mr. Burfield:

"That the Parish Council notes the minutes of the meeting held on 13th June 2018, Ref DM/03/2018".

CARRIED unanimously

(c) Finance Committee

Mr. Eaton proposed, seconded by Mr. Andrews:

"That the Parish Council notes the minutes of the meeting held on 27th June 2018, Ref F/01/2018, including the recommendation for the Parish Council to enquire from Nationwide if they provide banking facilities specifically for Parish Councils".

Mr. Burfield suggested the Charity Foundation may also satisfy the Parish Council's banking needs and recommended the Clerk make a similar enquiry.

The additional of a second financial institution to be approached attracted no objection, subject to the Charity Foundation being covered by the Financial Compensation Scheme.

CARRIED unanimously

The following recommendations were also AGREED unanimously:

Item 6 – Community Infrastructure Levy

"The Committee recommends to full Council to transfer all CIL monies to the Reserve account until such time as appropriate expenditure had been identified".

Item 10 – Reserve Bank Account

The Committee recommends to full Council to authorise the Clerk to set up a system to view the Reserve Bank account online in order to do the bank reconciliations.

(d) Recreation Grounds Committee

A second quotation for safety surfacing repairs at the Common Field Recreation Ground play area was awaited.

It was unanimously agreed to authorise the Clerk and Dr. Walker to accept any quote up to £3,200, to be paid from the Reserve Fund for the play area safety surfacing repairs.

9. **CONSULTATIONS**

(a) Kent County Council Right of Way Improvement Plan

The 2018-2028 plan is out for public consultation until 12th September 2018.

10. **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

(a) Accounts for payments & receipts

Mr. Eaton proposed, seconded by Dr. Walker:

“That the Parish Council approves the list of payments (Vouchers 55 to 76)”.

CARRIED unanimously

(b) Donations and Subscriptions

Citizens Advice North & West Kent – To note a letter of appreciation for the Parish Council's donation.

11. **COMMON FIELD RECREATION GROUND TRUST**

The Clerk is in the process of drafting the relevant General Data Protection Notices and Policies.

12. **INFORMATION REPORTS**

(a) Report from Chairman

There was no report from the Chairman.

(b) Reports from Parish Councillors

Land West of St. Mary's Church, High Street (planning application for a new Church Hall and vicarage with access through the Churchyard). Mr. Andrews had attended the first day of the two-day appeal hearing. The Planning Inspector appeared to have been well informed, however, there was some confusion when the Diocese's representative tabled amended plans proposing alterations to the access across the public footpath. Mr. Andrews objected and said that Kemsing Parish Council, a statutory consultee, had not had an opportunity to review this new plan submitted at the hearing. In fact, this plan had not been subject to public consultation at all and no one had prior knowledge of these plans. In addition the amended plans were created on a different scale than those submitted with the original application.

Mrs. Cole thanked Mr. Andrews for representing the Parish Council at the hearing.

41 Park Hill Road, Otford (planning application for a new dwelling) – The Parish Council objected to this application and Mr. Andrews had attended the Sevenoaks District Council's Development Control Committee meeting. The application has subsequently been granted.

Lower Haffenden Field (Leisure plots sale) – Mr. Bennett drew attention to the four plots currently on the market. There is a concern as the advertisement incorrectly suggests there is direct access from Pilgrims Way. Furthermore, there is an Article 4 restriction on this land, which is also in the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Mr. Bennett proposed, seconded by Mr. Burfield:

“That the Clerk is instructed to find out :

If the Article 4 restriction on the land is still valid.

If the land is in the Green Belt.

If so, the Clerk should write to the Estate Agents and Auctioneers to advise potential buyers that

(a) The land is in the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, (b) There is no direct access from Pilgrims Way, (c) The land is in the Green Belt and (d) the existence of an Article 4 restriction”.

CARRIED unanimously

(c) General information

Post Office Closure (1 The Parade, Dynes Road) – An update from the Post Office twelve months following the closure of the post office was noted. So far no information has been made available about the meeting between KCC and Post Office Ltd regarding the potential use of the Kemsing Library as a Post Office, despite the Clerk chasing up.

It was noted that there was a newly appointed Networks Change Manager – the Clerk was asked to write to this person to find out any updates.

9.06 p.m.

Under the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press will be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

(c) Parish Council Office Opening hours

A proposal to alter the opening hours for the general public was discussed.

It was AGREED to amend the office opening hours to Wednesday and Friday morning between 11am and 1pm, commencing on 1st August 2018, to be reviewed in six months.

The meeting will be reconvened and opened to the Public and Press.

13. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday, 19th September 2018

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

Signed by Chairman : Date: